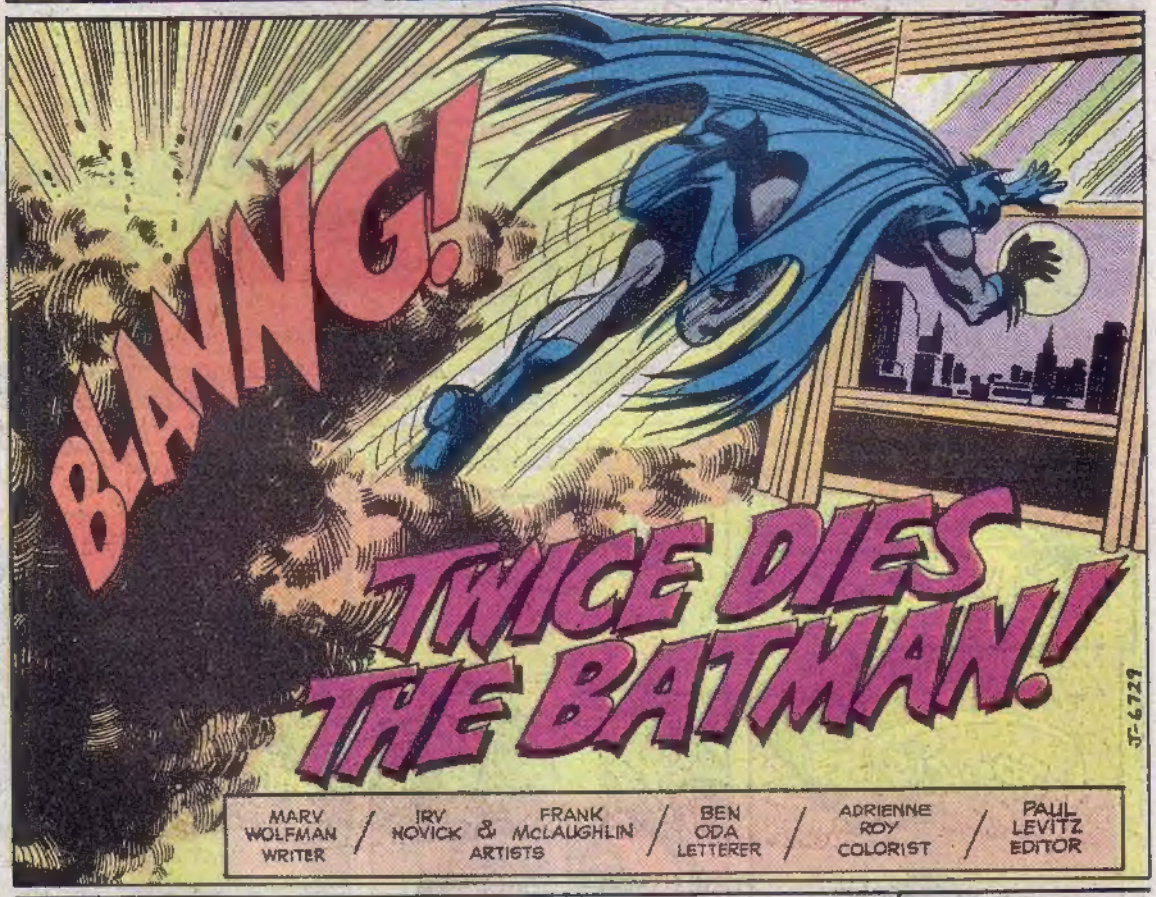
DC
IN THIS ISSUE:
A FULL-LENGTH BATMAN NOVEL!
plus BATMAN & ROBIN TOGETHER IN A SECOND STORY!
50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 329
NOV.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
THE COIN HAS SPOKEN, BATMAN--AND IT FINDS YOU GUILTY!
AND IN TWO-FACE'S COURT THERE'S ONLY ONE SENTENCE-- DEATH!
JIM APARO

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, *BRUCE WAYNE* HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD *AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...*

BAT MAN

CREATED BY BOB KANE



MARV WOLFMAN WRITER / IRV NOVICK & FRANK McLAUGHLIN ARTISTS / BEN ODA LETTERER / ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST / PAUL LEVITZ EDITOR

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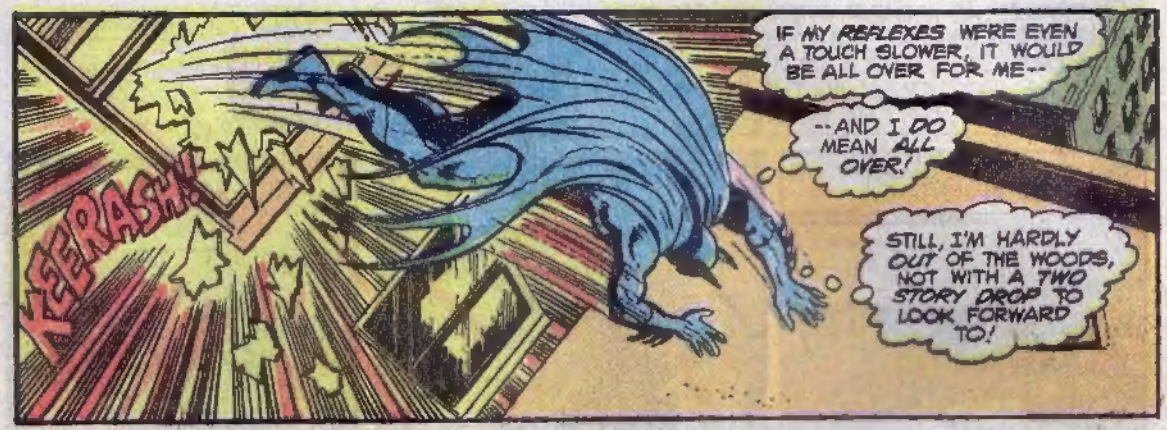
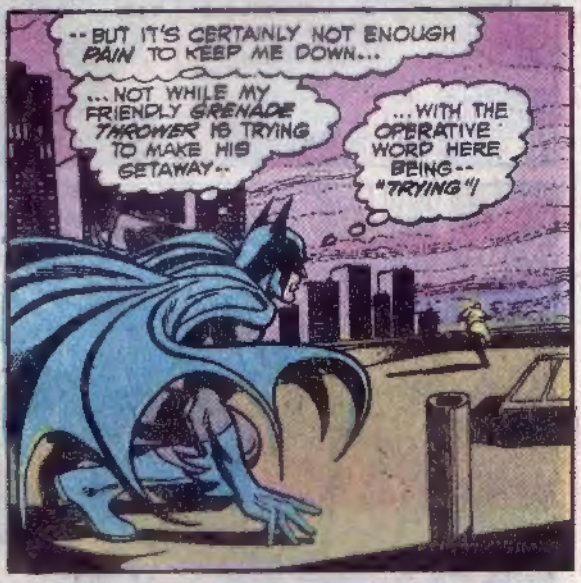
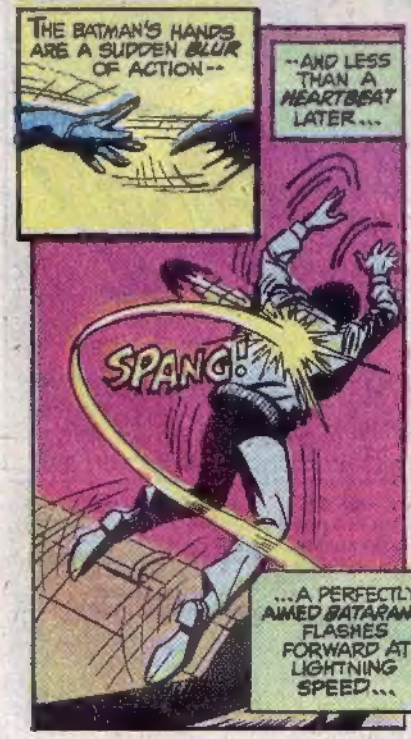
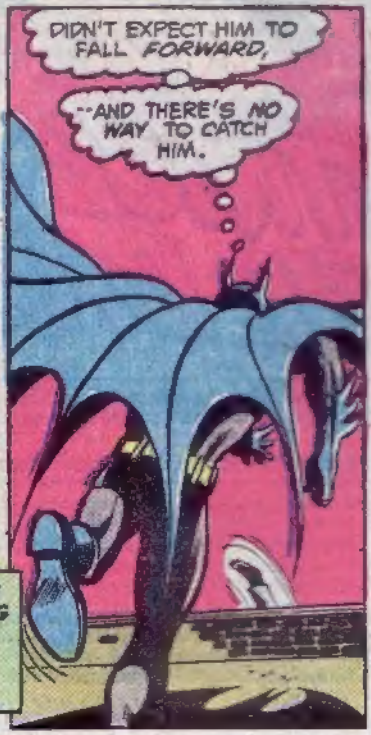

KEERASH!
IF MY REFLEXES WERE EVEN A TOUCH SLOWER, IT WOULD BE ALL OVER FOR ME--
--AND I DO MEAN ALL OVER!
STILL, I'M HARDLY OUT OF THE WOODS, NOT WITH A TWO STORY DROP TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

NO WAY TO LAND SOMEWHERE SOFT!
...JUST HAVE TO BRACE MYSELF FOR THE IMPACT--
--AND ROLL WITH THE FLOW OF MY FALL!
UNHH! FELT THAT JOLT ALL THE WAY UP TO MY TEETH--

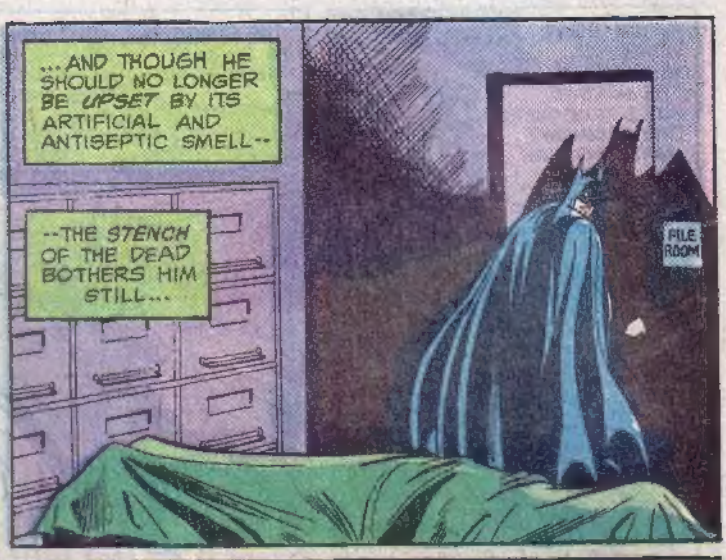

--BUT IT'S CERTAINLY NOT ENOUGH PAIN TO KEEP ME DOWN...
...NOT WHILE MY FRIENDLY GRENADE THROWER IS TRYING TO MAKE HIS GETAWAY--
...WITH THE OPERATIVE WORD HERE BEING-- "TRYING"!


THE BATMAN'S HANDS ARE A SUDDEN BLUR OF ACTION--
--AND LESS THAN A HEARTBEAT LATER...
SPANG!
...A PERFECTLY AIMED BATARANG FLASHES FORWARD AT LIGHTNING SPEED...

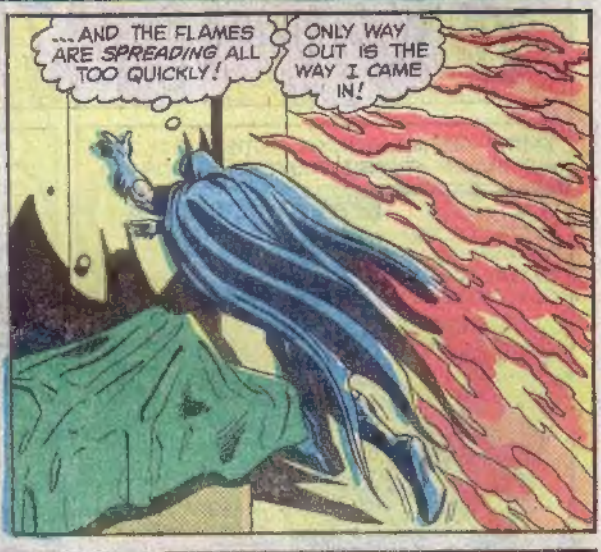

DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO FALL FORWARD,
--AND THERE'S NO WAY TO CATCH HIM.

I KNEW THIS BUILDING BORDERED ON GOTHAM BAY... HE MUST HAVE HAD A BOAT WAITING!
HE COULD BE ANYWHERE BY NOW... WHICH LEAVES ME BACK ON FIRST BASE.
ONLY HOPE I HAVE MORE LUCK AT THE CORONER'S OFFICE!

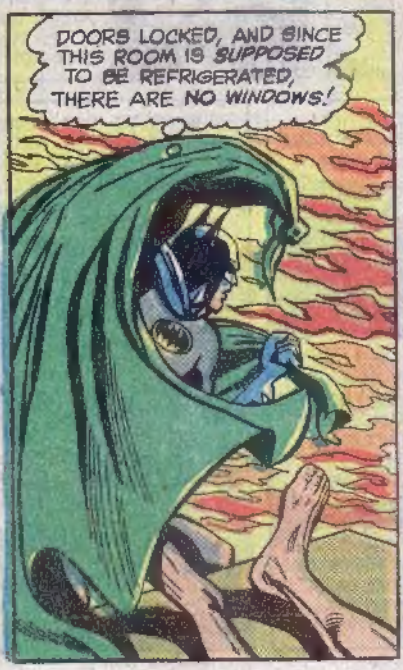
MINUTES LATER...
EVEN BEFORE THE BATMAN ENTERS THE BASEMENT OFFICE, HE FEELS THE DEATHLY CHILL RADIATING FROM THE ROOM WITHIN...
CORONER
HE HAS VISITED THIS REFRIGERATED POLICE MORGUE ALL TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST...


...AND THOUGH HE SHOULD NO LONGER BE UPSET BY ITS ARTIFICIAL AND ANTISEPTIC SMELL--
--THE STENCH OF THE DEAD BOTHERS HIM STILL...
FILE ROOM

HIS GLOVED HAND REACHES FOR THE INNER DOOR. SUDDENLY, INSTINCTIVELY HE FALLS BACK...
...AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON...
FELT THE HEAT COMING THROUGH THAT DOORKNOB--
THE FILE ROOM IS AN INFERNO...
FOOSH!


...AND THE FLAMES ARE SPREADING ALL TOO QUICKLY!
ONLY WAY OUT IS THE WAY I CAME IN!

LOCKED! SOMEONE PLANNED THIS TRIP WELL!


DOORS LOCKED, AND SINCE THIS ROOM IS SUPPOSED TO BE REFRIGERATED, THERE ARE NO WINDOWS!

THAT MEANS MY ONLY AVENUE OF ESCAPE IS THROUGH THE FLAMES THEMSELVES!
FI
RO
3

MAYBE THERE WERE NO WINDOWS IN THE MORGUE, BUT I REMEMBERED THE CASEMENT WINDOWS HIGH IN THE FILE ROOM.
THE GLASS IS DOUBLE-THICK PLATE--
--BUT RIGHT NOW, NOTHING BUT SOLID STEEL WOULD STOP ME... AND, FRANKLY, I'M NOT EVEN SURE ABOUT THAT!
KRASH!
GUESS THAT JUST ABOUT ENDS TONIGHT'S INVESTIGATION. NOTHING ELSE TO DO BUT CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT...
...THEN GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!
DAWN, AND ALL ACROSS GOTHAM CITY, MEN AND WOMEN STUMBLE BLEARY-EYED FROM BED..
IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER HOUR FOR THEM TO BECOME FULLY CONSCIOUS...
YOU'RE CERTAIN HE IS BEHIND THIS, SIR?
POSITIVE, THOUGH HE'S CLEVERLY SHUT OFF EVERY AVENUE I CAN USE TO PROVE IT.
BUT EKHART'S DEATH CLINCHED IT.
EKHART? WASN'T HE A PLASTIC SURGEON?
THE BEST, ALFRED. AND NO SOONER DID I BEGIN CHECKING THROUGH HIS FILES--
--WHEN THEY WERE DESTROYED IN THAT GRENADE BLAST!
STILL, I HAD ENOUGH TIME TO SPOT ANTON KAROSELLE'S NAME ...PROVING KAROSELLE WAS EKHART'S CLIENT.
AND SINCE MY COMPUTER CHECK PROVED KAROSELLE DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL LAST YEAR--
--WHOEVER KAROSELLE ORIGINALLY WAS MUST HAVE USED EKHART TO CHANGE HIS FACE AND FINGERPRINTS.
I WENT TO THE MORGUE TO CHECK KAROSELLE'S DEATH REPORT--BUT IT WAS DESTROYED AS WELL.
EVERYWHERE I TURN I'M STYMIED.
4

KRAK
AND FRANKLY I'M GETTING FED UP!
IS IT ALL SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU LEARN WHO KAROSELLE WAS?
VITALLY SO, ALFRED. YOU REMEMBER THE FILM WE WERE SENT...
BATMAN! YOU'VE SEEN ME ACQUITTED OF ANTON KAROSELLE'S MURDER!--
--BUT, I WANT YOU TO KNOW, NOT ONLY DID I KILL THAT MAN ONCE--
--I KILLED HIM TWICE!
WHAT DO WE KNOW, ALFRED? WE KNOW THAT MAN--CARL TERNION--KILLED ANTON KAROSELLE. HE PROBABLY KILLED DR. EKHART AS WELL.
AND DIDN'T YOU SAY THIS MR. KAROSELLE WAS A MURDERER, TOO?
CORRECT--HE KILLED DAVE STEVENS, GOTHAM'S DISTRICT ATTORNEY.
IT WOULD SEEM TO ME, SIR--THAT THIS IS A SERIES OF GANGLAND KILLINGS.
IT WOULD, ALFRED--IF I WEREN'T SO CERTAIN WHO CARL TERNION REALLY IS.
THIS IS A CASE OF DISGUISES, DECEPTIONS AND DELIBERATE MURDER.
AND, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I INTEND TO PROVE IT!
MEANWHILE, IN THE APARTMENT OF GILDA STEVENS...
CARL, THESE PAST DAYS WITH YOU HAVE BEEN SUCH A COMFORT. YOU KNOW, WHEN DAVE WAS KILLED, I THOUGHT I'D BE ALONE FOREVER...
I--I THOUGHT I WAS SOME SORT OF JONAH -- A WOMAN WHO LOST ONE HUSBAND.., WHO WATCHED ANOTHER MURDERED--
BUT, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU, CARL--SOMETHING SO VERY COMFORTING, YOU SOMEHOW MAKE ME FEEL WHOLE AGAIN, LIKE--
NO!!
I--IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING. HE WARNED ME BUT I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WOULD BE SO SOON--
CARL! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
CARL! FOR GOD'S SAKE, CARL--SPEAK TO ME!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

WHATEVER IS WRONG, CARL-- LET ME KNOW... LET ME HELP YOU!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, GILDA;-- AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP!
I'M BEYOND HELP NOW--
IT'S ALL TOO LATE!
ARE YOU COMING BACK, CARL? PLEASE--TELL ME YOU WILL. DON'T LEAVE ME... FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE-- DON'T LEAVE ME!
BUT, CARL TERNION IS ALREADY GONE...
ALMOST WITHOUT DIRECTION HE STAGGERS WILDLY ON THE STREET BELOW GILDA STEVEN'S APARTMENT...
HE RUNS LIKE A MAN POSSESSED --CRAZED BY SOME UNSHAKABLE HORROR...
CLANG!
HIS DEEP, DARK EYES ABLAZE WITH FIRE, HIS VOICE GURGLES LIKE A THRASHING ANIMAL... THEN HE SCREAMS UNTIL HE CAN SCREAM NO MORE...
IT ALMOST WORKED... GILDA WAS ALMOST MINE AGAIN!
BUT NOW I CAN NEVER HOLD HER... NEVER LET HER LOOK AT THIS FACE... THIS MOCKERY I HAVE ONCE MORE BECOME!
I'VE LOST THE ONLY WOMAN I'VE EVER CARED FOR... EVER LOVED... I'VE LOST HER BECAUSE OF THE CURSE... THE CURSE OF TWO-FACE!
ANTON KAROSELLE'S MANSION STANDS PROUD AMID SIX ACRES OF WOODS JUST NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY...
TWO-FACE KNEW THE POLICE HAD TRACED DAVE STEVEN'S MURDER TO KAROSELLE... KNEW THE POLICE WERE WATCHING KAROSELLE...
TWO-FACE BROKE IN HERE -- THE POLICE SAW KAROSELLE TRY TO KILL HIM.
THEY SAW THEM STRUGGLE... KAROSELLE'S GUN WAS FIRED-- AND THE BULLET SHEARED THE ROD HOLDING UP THE CHANDELIER.
IT FELL, KILLING KAROSELLE INSTANTLY. IT SEEMED TO BE AN ACCIDENT--
--BUT, IF I KNOW TWO-FACE--IT WAS MURDER... EVEN IF I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY!
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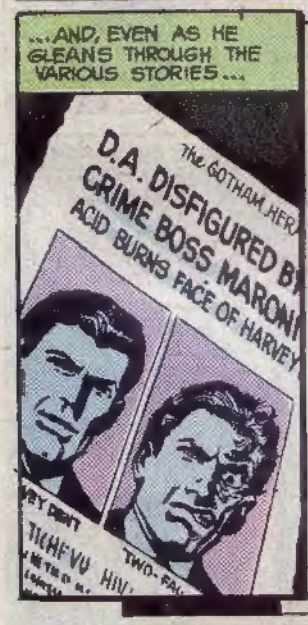
SYSTEMATICALLY, THE BATMAN BEGINS A THOROUGH SEARCH OF KAROSELLE'S MANSION, TILL FINALLY...
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS HIDDEN IN KAROSELLE'S SAFE.
SINCE THE MAN DIDN'T SEEM TO BE A COLLECTOR-- EH?
QUICKLY, THE BATMAN'S KEEN EYES SKITTER OVER THE HEADLINES...


...AND, EVEN AS HE GLEANS THROUGH THE VARIOUS STORIES...
The GOTHAM HERA
D.A. DISFIGURED BY
CRIME BOSS MARONI
ACID BURNS FACE OF HARVEY
TWO-FAC

...A MUCH LARGER STORY COMES INTO SHARP FOCUS...
Gilda Gold Wed to Harvey Dent, D.A.
Gilda Gold, daughter of sculptor Alan Gold, was married to former District Attorney Harvey Dent in a Park Hill ceremony last night. Harvey Dent, the former villain Two-Face had been pardoned for his crimes by Governor Williams.

GOTHAM TIMES-NEWS
"BOSS" MARONI KILLED BY TWO-FACE, FORMER D.A.

GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL, LATER THAT SAME NIGHT...
WHERE IS MARY ANN'S REGULAR DOCTOR?
GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL

TOOK SICK HIMSELF, BATMAN. NOT EVEN WE ARE IMMUNE TO THE COMMON COLD. I'M DR. McHENRY.
I ASSUME YOU'RE HERE ABOUT MARY ANN WARNER. I UNDERSTAND YOU BROUGHT HER HERE AFTER A MUGGING ATTEMPT.
HOW IS SHE DOING, DOCTOR?
SHE'S STABLE. STILL SLEEPS MOST OF THE TIME, AND WE HAVE TO KEEP HER SEDATED BECAUSE OF THE PAIN.

BUT SHE'S A HARDY SOUL --SHE'LL PULL THROUGH.
I HOPE SO. SHE'S A VALUED FRIEND. PLEASE DO WHATEVER YOU CAN FOR HER.
YOU CAN TRUST ME, BATMAN. WE'LL TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF HER.

ACROSS THE BREADTH OF GOTHAM, IN THE APARTMENT OF GILDA STEVENS...
THERE'S NO REASON TO CRY, GILDA.
CARL? YOU'RE BACK?
NOT CARL.
B-BATMAN!?!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, GILDA. I WAS VERY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT DAVE'S MURDER.
HE WAS A GOOD MAN.
IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, BATMAN... THE MAN WHO KILLED HIM NEVER EVEN KNEW DAVE. SO WHY--?
HE KNEW YOU, GILDA. AND HE KNEW YOUR FIRST HUSBAND, HARVEY.
GILDA, WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS A LONG TIME-- SINCE HARVEY'S TRAGIC ACCIDENT. I'D NEVER KNOWINGLY PUT YOU IN DANGER--
BUT I NEED YOUR HELP, GILDA. I NEED YOUR HELP TO ALLOW ME TO HELP HARVEY!
WHAT?!?
IT WOULD BE SO SIMPLE NOW TO PRESS THIS TRIGGER --TO BE RID OF THAT MASKED MANHUNTER FOREVER!
BUT, BLAST IT--I CAN'T... CAN'T!
AND BECAUSE I CAN'T--THE BATMAN WILL LIVE!
IT'S MY BLASTED TWO HEADED COIN! FOR EVERY CRIME I WISH TO COMMIT--
--FOR EVERY ACT I WISH TO TAKE-- I MUST FLIP THE COIN...
THE SCARRED HEAD LEANS ME TOWARD CRIME... THE CLEAN HEAD TOWARD GOOD--
--AND FOR WEEKS NOW, EVERY TIME I COULD HAVE KILLED THAT CAPED CRUSADER--
--MY COIN ALWAYS TURNED UP GOOD!
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TIME AND TIME AGAIN I HAD MY CHANCE -- AT THE DAM WHERE HE ATTACKED ME... ALLOWING ME TO DEFEND MYSELF.
EVEN AT EKHART'S AND THE CORONER'S OFFICE. I WAS TRYING TO DESTROY EVIDENCE THAT I WAS INVOLVED WHEN HE BLUNDERED IN.
HE SHOULD HAVE DIED THEN -- BUT AS ALWAYS HE SAVED HIMSELF!
THE FATES ARE MOCKING ME -- BUT I SWEAR I'LL NOT BE MOCKED FOR LONG!
THE BATMAN WILL DIE -- AND THEN NO ONE WILL EVER AGAIN STAND BETWEEN GILDA AND ME! NEVER AGAIN!
I--I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE YOU... CARL CAME INTO MY LIFE WHEN I THOUGHT I HAD LOST ANY CHANCE FOR HAPPINESS.
NOW YOU TELL ME CARL IS ACTUALLY MY EX-HUSBAND....YOU WANT ME TO PLOT AGAINST HIM -- I-I DON'T THINK I CAN, BATMAN. I JUST CAN'T.
HE LOVES YOU, GILDA... AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE WE'LL BE HELPING HIM. PLEASE...HELP ME HELP HIM.
THE BATCAVE, FAR BELOW THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...
IF I MAY BE SO BOLD, SIR... THIS SEEMS ALL TOO DANGEROUS!
YOU ARE PUTTING YOUR LIFE IN THAT MADMAN'S HANDS!
TWO-FACE IS NOT WORTH IT, SIR.
YOU'RE RIGHT, ALFRED. TWO-FACE ISN'T WORTH IT.
BUT, THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE HARVEY DENT IS!
"HE WAS A GOOD MAN. HE FOUGHT INJUSTICE, HE CARED FOR PEOPLE, HE LOVED HIS WIFE. I'M CONVINCED, BENEATH THE GROTESQUERIE HE'S BECOME, THERE IS STILL A GOOD MAN. I WANT THE CHANCE TO FIND HIM."
ALL I'VE EVER WANTED WAS TO BE CERTAIN GILDA WAS HAPPY... I EVEN STAYED OUT OF HER LIFE WHEN SHE FOUND DAVE STEVENS --
BUT HE HAD TO KILL STEVENS. HE HAD TO RUIN MY GILDA'S HAPPINESS!
HE DESERVED TO DIE FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME -- BUT FOR WHAT HE DID TO GILDA --
-- HE DESERVED TO DIE HORRIBLY!
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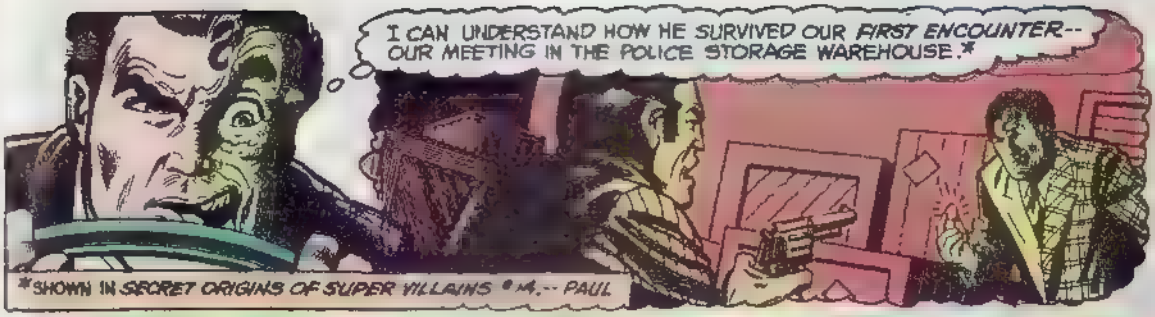
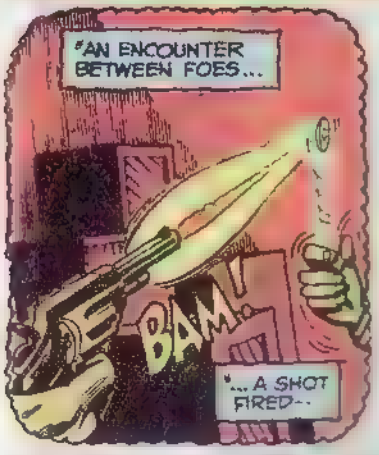
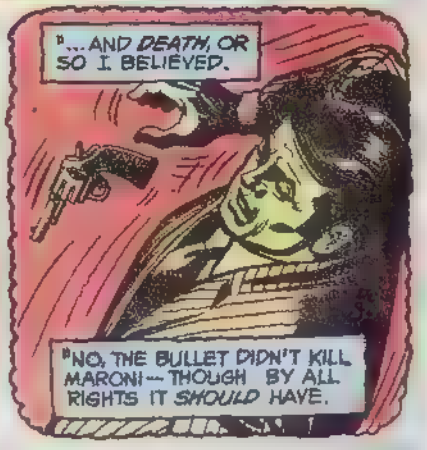
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

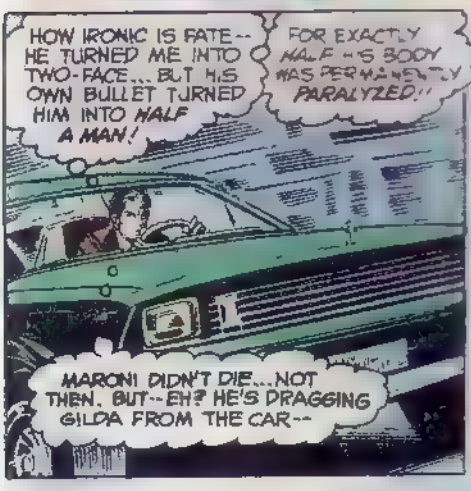
I WANTED TO GIVE HER HAPPINESS... I WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT ALL THE PAIN OF NEW SURGERY TO REPAIR THIS AWFUL FACE--
--TO BECOME A NEW MAN... A MAN WHO COULD PLEASE GILDA AS SHE DESERVED TO BE PLEASED...
BUT WHERE DID IT ALL GET ME? BLAST EKHART! HE WARNED ME THAT THE SURGERY WAS ONLY TEMPORARY--
--AND NOW THAT IT'S WORN OFF-- GILDA WILL NEVER BE MINE AGAIN-- NEVER!
SMASH!
I'VE CAUSED HER EVEN MORE PAIN... MORE GRIEF -- MORE -- WHAT?
HIM? B-BUT... IT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE! I KILLED HIM!
I KILLED "BOSS" MARONI TWICE!
MARONI! TAKE YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF HER! MARONI!
NO! HE'S TURNING TO ME -- HE SEES ME!
HE'S LAUGHING AT ME AS IF I WERE SOME HELPLESS CRIPPLE!!
BLAST YOU, MARONI -- I'LL KILL YOU AGAIN IF I HAVE TO --
--AND I'LL KEEP KILLING YOU UNTIL YOU STAY BURIED IN YOUR GRAVE!
HE'S DRIVING OFF WITH GILDA... BUT, NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES, I'LL FOLLOW--
--AND I'LL MAKE HIM PAY FOR ALL HE'S DONE ...AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN!
BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND... HOW CAN HE STILL BE ALIVE! THIS TIME I KNOW HE DIED...
I WAS POSITIVE! EVEN THE POLICE WERE SURE.
10

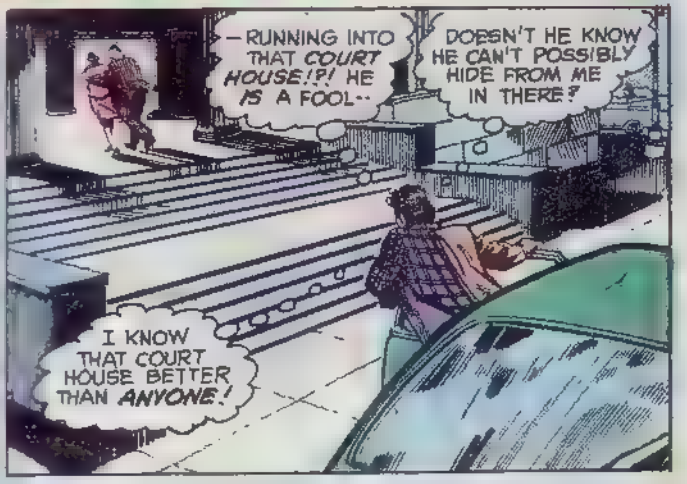

I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW HE SURVIVED OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER-- OUR MEETING IN THE POLICE STORAGE WAREHOUSE.*
*SHOWN IN SECRET ORIGINS OF SUPER VILLAINS #4,-- PAUL

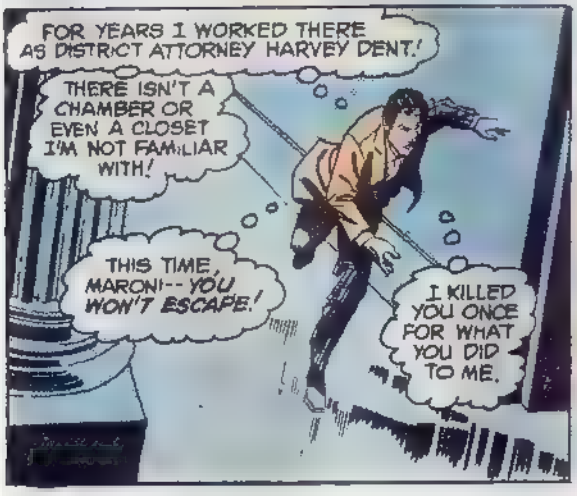

"AN ENCOUNTER BETWEEN FOES...
BAM!
"...A SHOT FIRED--

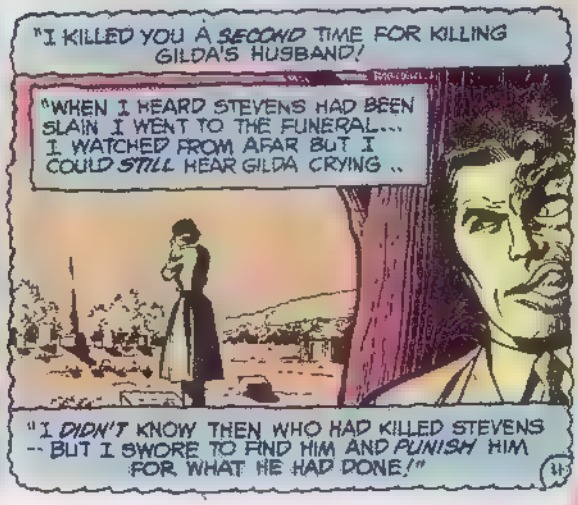
BEEOW!


"...AND DEATH, OR SO I BELIEVED.
"NO, THE BULLET DIDN'T KILL MARONI--THOUGH BY ALL RIGHTS IT SHOULD HAVE.

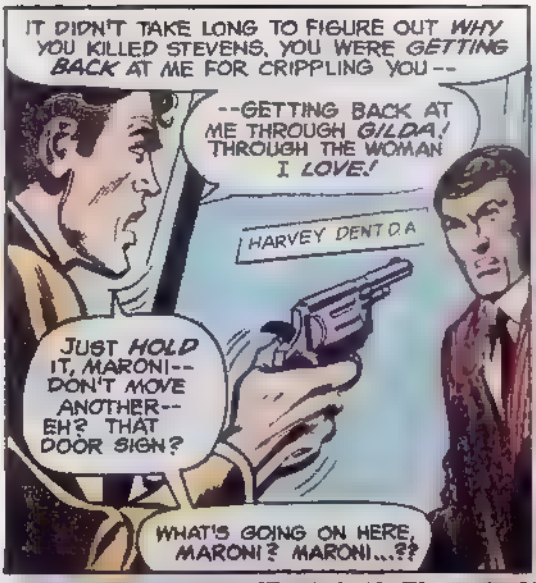

HOW IRONIC IS FATE-- HE TURNED ME INTO TWO-FACE... BUT HIS OWN BULLET TURNED HIM INTO HALF A MAN!
FOR EXACTLY HALF--HIS BODY WAS PERMANENTLY PARALYZED!!
MARONI DIDN'T DIE...NOT THEN. BUT--EH? HE'S DRAGGING GILDA FROM THE CAR--

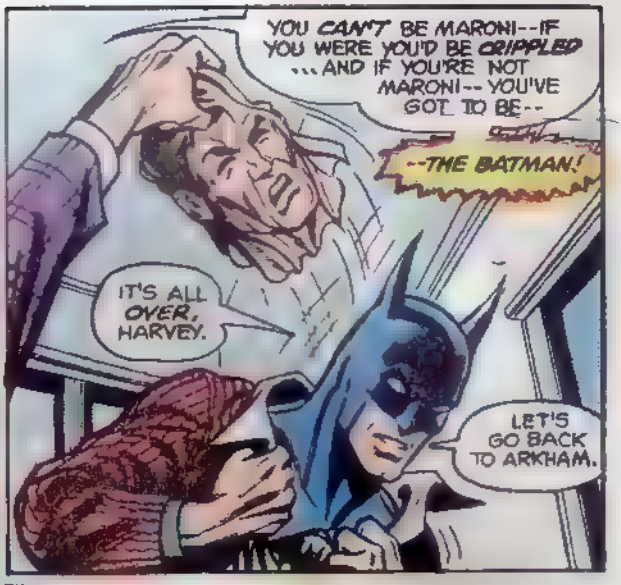

--RUNNING INTO THAT COURT HOUSE!?! HE IS A FOOL--
DOESN'T HE KNOW HE CAN'T POSSIBLY HIDE FROM ME IN THERE?
I KNOW THAT COURT HOUSE BETTER THAN ANYONE!

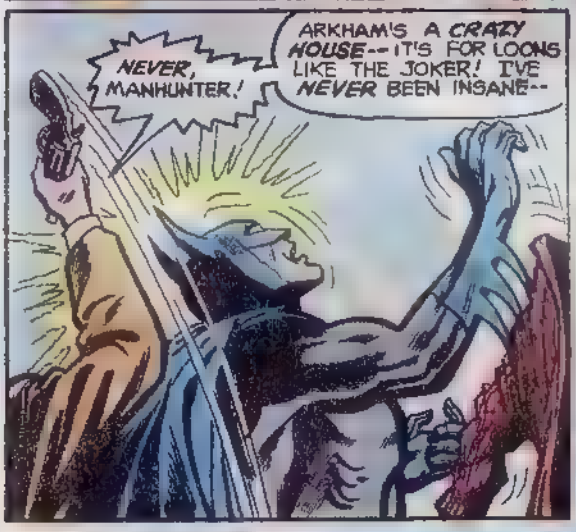

FOR YEARS I WORKED THERE AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARVEY DENT!
THERE ISN'T A CHAMBER OR EVEN A CLOSET I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH!
THIS TIME, MARONI--YOU WON'T ESCAPE!
I KILLED YOU ONCE FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME.

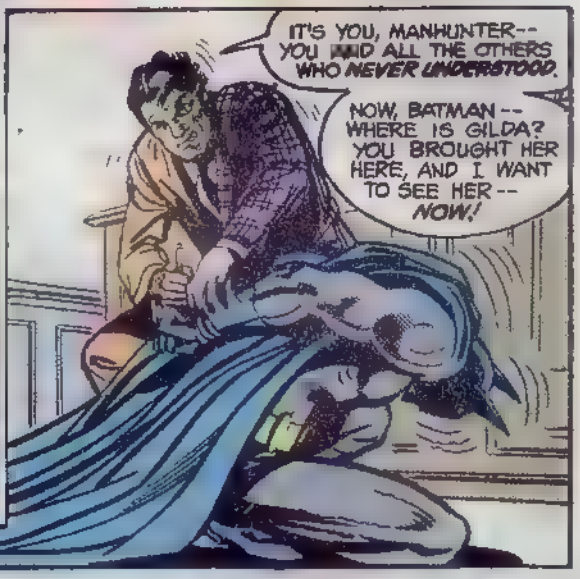

"I KILLED YOU A SECOND TIME FOR KILLING GILDA'S HUSBAND!
"WHEN I HEARD STEVENS HAD BEEN SLAIN I WENT TO THE FUNERAL... I WATCHED FROM AFAR BUT I COULD STILL HEAR GILDA CRYING ..
"I DIDN'T KNOW THEN WHO HAD KILLED STEVENS --BUT I SWORE TO FIND HIM AND PUNISH HIM FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE!"

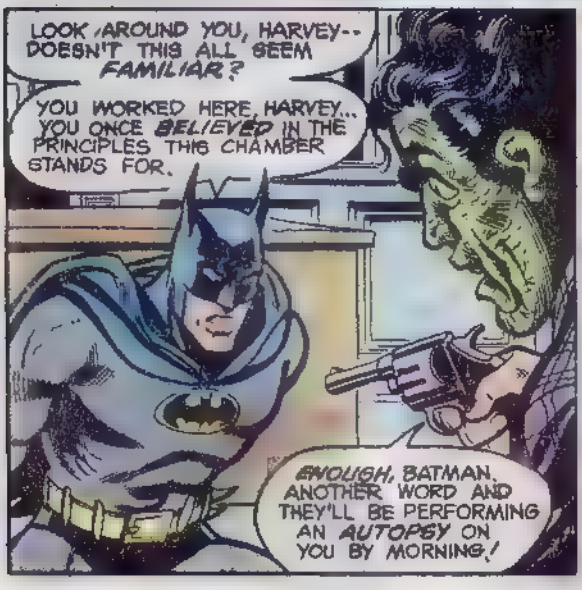
MARONI! I KNOW YOU'RE HERE. COME ON OUT AND SHOW YOURSELF!
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME, MARONI.
IF THAT'S TRUE, DENT -- HOW DID I ESCAPE DYING?
MARONI? YOU'RE A DOLT! YOU SHOULD HAVE REALIZED NO MATTER WHERE YOU HIDE I'D FIND YOU!
NO ONE EVER ESCAPES TWO-FACE!
"WHY, IT DIDN'T EVEN TAKE ME LONG TO FIND DAVE STEVENS' MURDERER--
"WITHIN DAYS AFTER I BEGAN MY SEARCH, I TRACKED HIM DOWN-- HEARD HIM GIBBERING AWAY ON THE PHONE..."
THAT'S RIGHT, AUGIE. WITH MY NEW FACE EVEN MY SISTER WOULDN'T KNOW ME.
YEAH... EKHART DID IT... YEAH, HE'S THE BEST ANYWHERE.
EKHART? HE'S BACK?
"I KNEW I COULD KILL KAROSELLE ANYTIME--BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE A MOMENT AND LEARN THAT EKHART HAD VANISHED AGAIN.
"WITH STEVENS DEAD, A NEW FACE WOULD BE MY LAST CHANCE TO MAKE GILDA HAPPY ONCE MORE. I CLUTCHED AT THE STRAW...
I AM TELLING YOU, FRIEND, YOUR FACE WILL NOT PERMIT PERMANENT SURGERY.
YOU'RE LYING, EKHART. I WANT YOU TO OPERATE -- NOW!
"I REMAINED AWAKE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE OPERATION, MY GUN NEVER SWAYED FROM EKHART'S HEART...
"LATER, WHILE I WAS RECOVERING, I SEARCHED THROUGH HIS FILES--
"IT WAS THEN I FINALLY LEARNED THAT ANTON KAROSELLE -- THE MAN WHO MURDERED GILDA'S HUSBAND--
"--WAS ALSO 'BOSS' MARONI-- THE SAME VIPER WHO TURNED ME INTO THIS TWO-FACED FREAK!
THE SAME MAN I THOUGHT I HAD KILLED--
YOU, MARONI-- YOU!
12

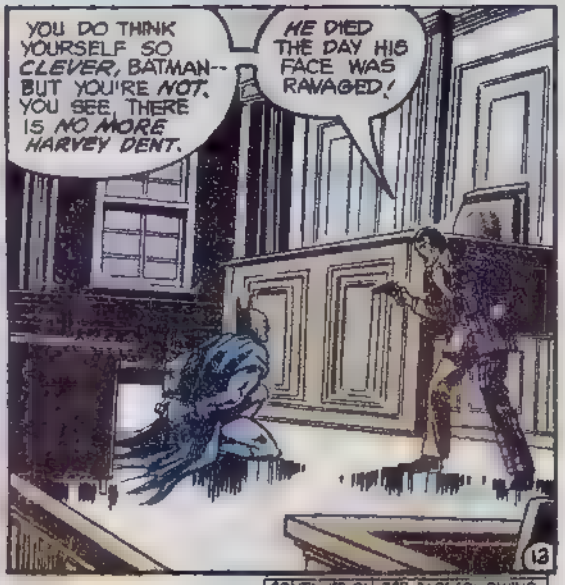

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOU KILLED STEVENS. YOU WERE GETTING BACK AT ME FOR CRIPPLING YOU--
--GETTING BACK AT ME THROUGH GILDA! THROUGH THE WOMAN I LOVE!
HARVEY DENT D.A.
JUST HOLD IT, MARONI-- DON'T MOVE ANOTHER-- EH? THAT DOOR SIGN?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, MARONI? MARONI...??


YOU CAN'T BE MARONI--IF YOU WERE YOU'D BE CRIPPLED ...AND IF YOU'RE NOT MARONI-- YOU'VE GOT TO BE--
--THE BATMAN!
IT'S ALL OVER, HARVEY.
LET'S GO BACK TO ARKHAM.




IT'S YOU, MANHUNTER-- YOU AND ALL THE OTHERS WHO NEVER UNDERSTOOD.
NOW, BATMAN -- WHERE IS GILDA? YOU BROUGHT HER HERE, AND I WANT TO SEE HER-- NOW!


LOOK AROUND YOU, HARVEY-- DOESN'T THIS ALL SEEM FAMILIAR?
YOU WORKED HERE, HARVEY... YOU ONCE BELIEVED IN THE PRINCIPLES THIS CHAMBER STANDS FOR.
ENOUGH, BATMAN. ANOTHER WORD AND THEY'LL BE PERFORMING AN AUTOPSY ON YOU BY MORNING!


YOU DO THINK YOURSELF SO CLEVER, BATMAN-- BUT YOU'RE NOT. YOU SEE, THERE IS NO MORE HARVEY DENT.
HE DIED THE DAY HIS FACE WAS RAVAGED!
13

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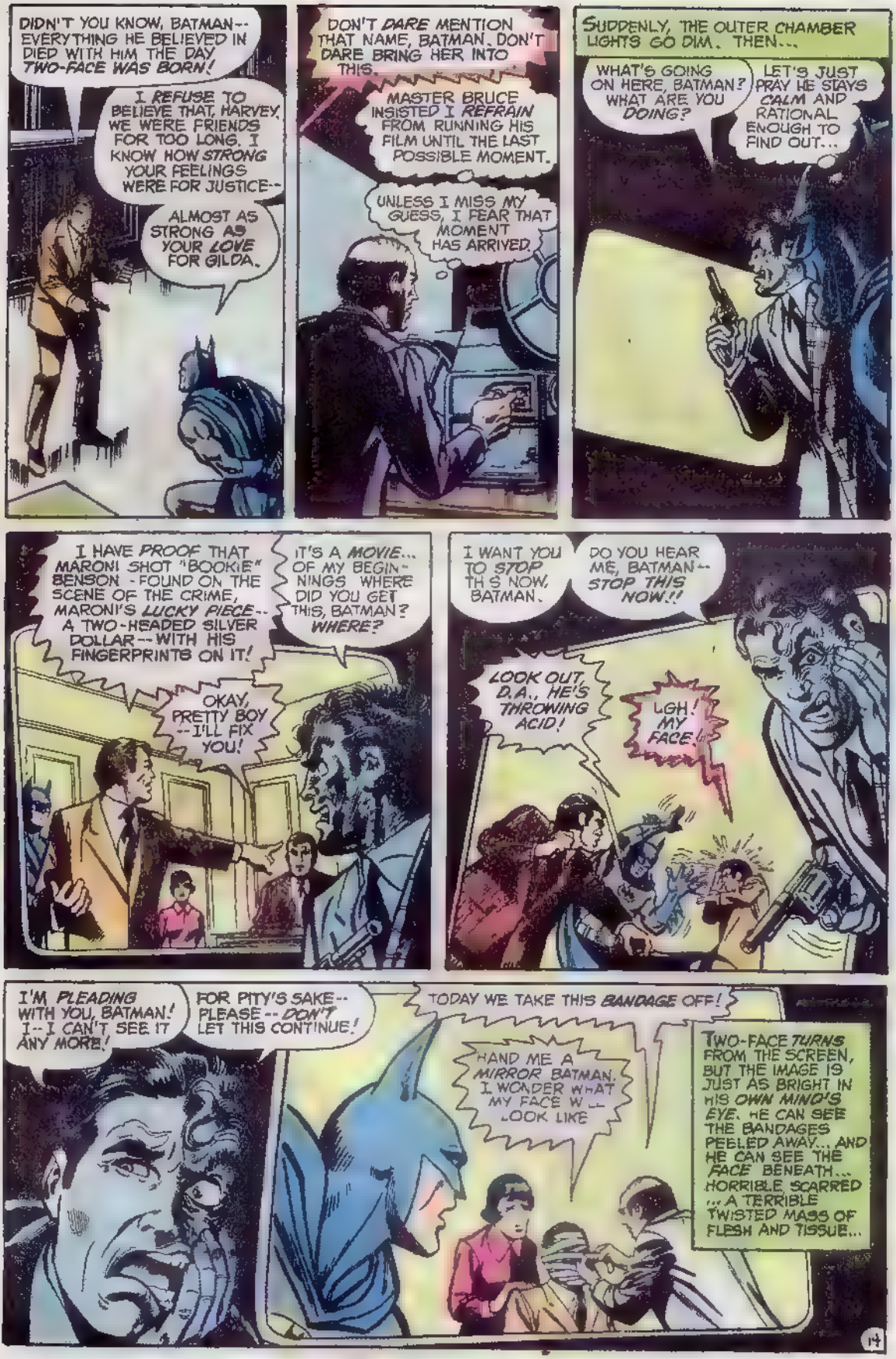
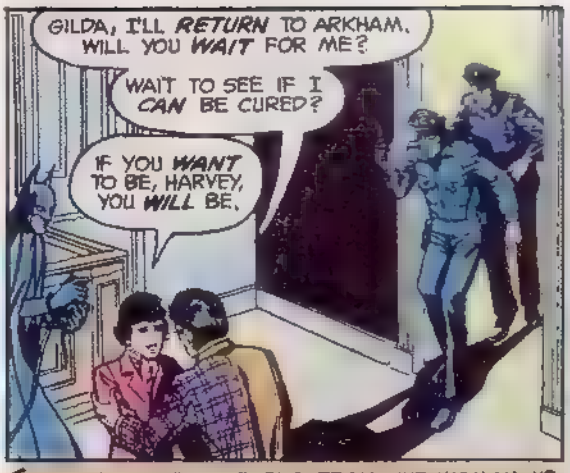
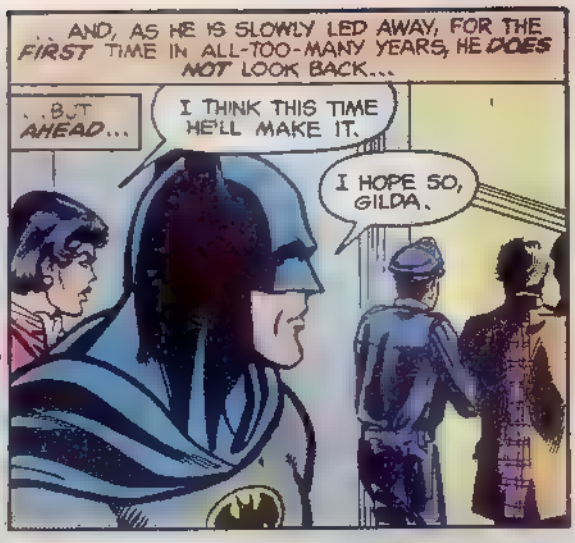

DIDN'T YOU KNOW, BATMAN-- EVERYTHING HE BELIEVED IN DIED WITH HIM THE DAY TWO-FACE WAS BORN!
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT, HARVEY. WE WERE FRIENDS FOR TOO LONG. I KNOW HOW STRONG YOUR FEELINGS WERE FOR JUSTICE--
ALMOST AS STRONG AS YOUR LOVE FOR GILDA.
DON'T DARE MENTION THAT NAME, BATMAN. DON'T DARE BRING HER INTO THIS.
MASTER BRUCE INSISTED I REFRAIN FROM RUNNING HIS FILM UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT.
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, I FEAR THAT MOMENT HAS ARRIVED.
SUDDENLY, THE OUTER CHAMBER LIGHTS GO DIM. THEN...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BATMAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET'S JUST PRAY HE STAYS CALM AND RATIONAL ENOUGH TO FIND OUT...
I HAVE PROOF THAT MARONI SHOT "BOOKIE" BENSON - FOUND ON THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, MARONI'S LUCKY PIECE-- A TWO-HEADED SILVER DOLLAR -- WITH HIS FINGERPRINTS ON IT!
IT'S A MOVIE... OF MY BEGIN-NINGS WHERE DID YOU GET THIS, BATMAN? WHERE?
OKAY, PRETTY BOY --I'LL FIX YOU!
I WANT YOU TO STOP TH S NOW, BATMAN.
DO YOU HEAR ME, BATMAN-- STOP THIS NOW!!
LOOK OUT, D.A., HE'S THROWING ACID!
UGH! MY FACE!
I'M PLEADING WITH YOU, BATMAN! I-- I CAN'T SEE IT ANY MORE!
FOR PITY'S SAKE-- PLEASE -- DON'T LET THIS CONTINUE!
TODAY WE TAKE THIS BANDAGE OFF!
HAND ME A MIRROR BATMAN. I WONDER WHAT MY FACE W-- LOOK LIKE
TWO-FACE TURNS FROM THE SCREEN, BUT THE IMAGE IS JUST AS BRIGHT IN HIS OWN MIND'S EYE. HE CAN SEE THE BANDAGES PEELED AWAY... AND HE CAN SEE THE FACE BENEATH... HORRIBLE SCARRED ...A TERRIBLE TWISTED MASS OF FLESH AND TISSUE...
14

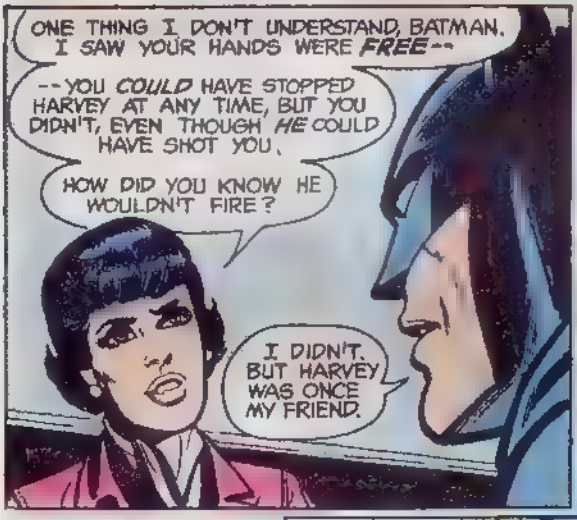
YOU'VE PUSHED ME TOO FAR, BATMAN NOTHING WILL SAVE YOU NOW--YOU WILL DIE!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR COIN, HARVEY--THE ONE YOU TOOK FROM MARONI!
YOU ALWAYS LIKE TO GIVE YOUR VICTIMS A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE.
M-MY COIN--? YES, OF COURSE I'LL FLIP IT. BUT THIS TIME I'M NOT WORRIED.
MARONI IS DEAD. EKHART IS DEAD. SOON YOU WILL JOIN THEM. THEN ONLY GILDA AND I WILL LIVE!
WE CAN BEGIN ANEW--BUT ONLY WHEN ALL THE VESTIGES OF THE PAST ARE DEAD AND BURIED!!
I WISH TO GOD IT WAS TRUE, HARVEY--BUT IT'S NOT.
GILDA?!?
I LOVED YOU ONCE, HARVEY EVEN AFTER YOU BECAME TWO-FACE I LOVED YOU.
DESPITE EVERYTHING YOU HAD DONE, I MARRIED YOU.
BUT, DON'T YOU SEE-- EVERYTHING YOU DID WAS THE ACT OF A SICK MAN...
YOU NEEDED HELP... AND I WANTED TO HELP, WITH ALL MY HEART I WANTED TO HELP...
BUT, HARVEY... IF YOU PULL THAT TRIGGER NOW--IT WON'T BE THE ACT OF A SICK MAN...
IT WILL BE COLD BLOODED MURDER--
--AND WHATEVER WAS ONCE BETWEEN US--I SWEAR IT WILL ALL BE GONE!
THAT BULLET WON'T WIPE CLEAN THE PAST, HARVEY. THE PAST WILL ALWAYS BE THERE... TO HAUNT YOU.

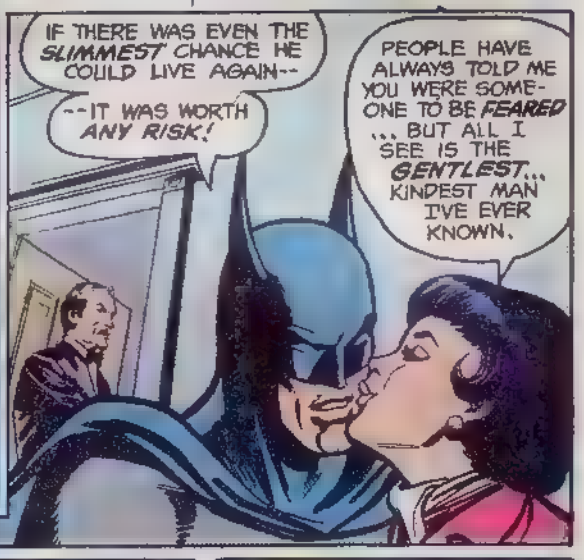
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, GILDA. BATMAN WILL HAVE A CHANCE--A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE TO LIVE.
YOU SEE, I WON'T BE KILLING HIM--IT WILL BE THE COIN--IT TELLS ME WHAT TO DO.
BY GOD, HARVEY--YOU USE THAT THING LIKE A CRUTCH! IT CRIPPLES YOU MORE THAN YOUR ACCIDENT EVER DID!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT ANY COIN OR ANY EVEN CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL--I WANT YOU-- WITHOUT THAT COIN--TO MAKE THE CHOICE.
I CAN'T PROMISE THAT IF YOU PUT DOWN THAT GUN IT WILL EVER BE THE SAME BETWEEN US--
--BUT I DO SWEAR THIS, HARVEY--IF YOU PULL THAT TRIGGER, I WILL WALK OUT OF HERE AND HATE YOU FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE.
NOW, HARVEY--DECIDE!
WHAT WILL IT BE--VENGEANCE...
...OR HOPE?
THIS ISN'T FAIR, GILDA... I--I HAVE TO USE THE COIN...
I-IT'S ALWAYS TOLD ME WHAT TO...
GOOD HEAVEN, GILDA--CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND--?
GILDA... OH, GOD, GILDA...
PLEASE..
...HELP...
...ME...
PLONK!

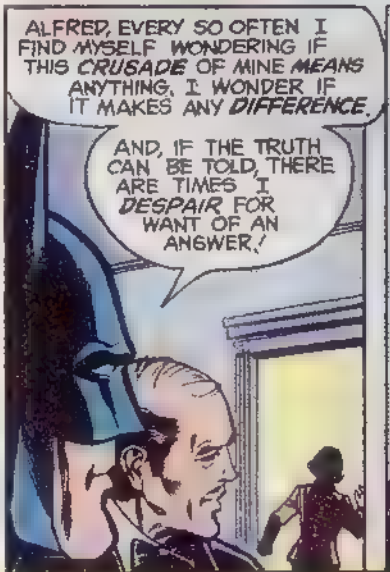


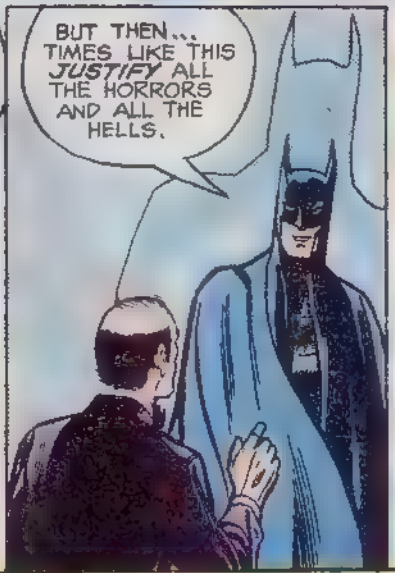
SILENTLY, TWO-FACE TURNS FROM THE WOMAN HE LOVES AND THE MAN HE HAS FOR SO LONG TRIED TO KILL...

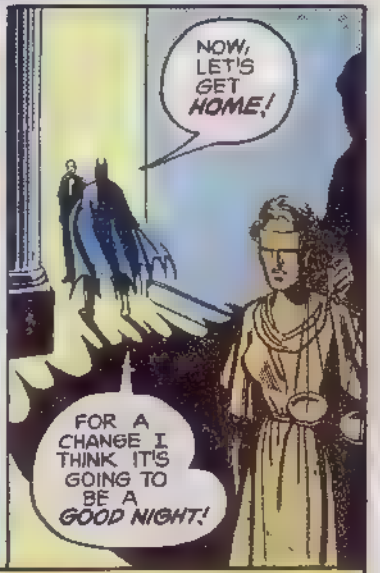

...AND, AS HE IS SLOWLY LED AWAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ALL-TOO-MANY YEARS, HE DOES NOT LOOK BACK...
...BUT AHEAD...
I THINK THIS TIME HE'LL MAKE IT.
I HOPE SO, GILDA.


ONE THING I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BATMAN. I SAW YOUR HANDS WERE FREE--
--YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED HARVEY AT ANY TIME, BUT YOU DIDN'T, EVEN THOUGH HE COULD HAVE SHOT YOU.
HOW DID YOU KNOW HE WOULDN'T FIRE?
I DIDN'T. BUT HARVEY WAS ONCE MY FRIEND.


IF THERE WAS EVEN THE SLIMMEST CHANCE HE COULD LIVE AGAIN--
--IT WAS WORTH ANY RISK!
PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS TOLD ME YOU WERE SOMEONE TO BE FEARED ... BUT ALL I SEE IS THE GENTLEST, KINDEST MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

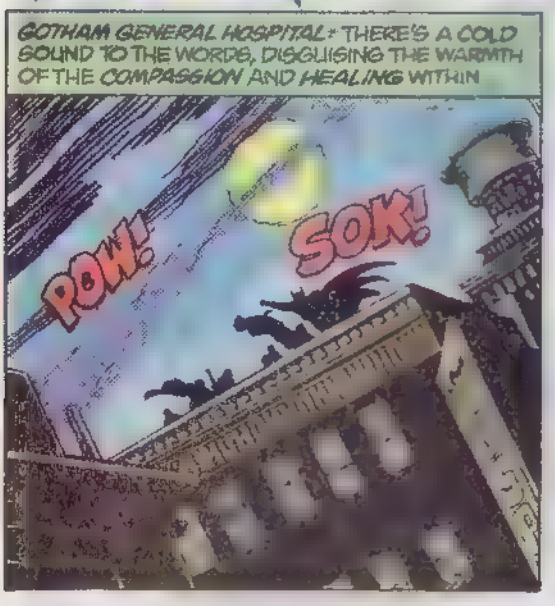

ALFRED, EVERY SO OFTEN I FIND MYSELF WONDERING IF THIS CRUSADE OF MINE MEANS ANYTHING. I WONDER IF IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE.
AND, IF THE TRUTH CAN BE TOLD, THERE ARE TIMES I DESPAIR FOR WANT OF AN ANSWER.



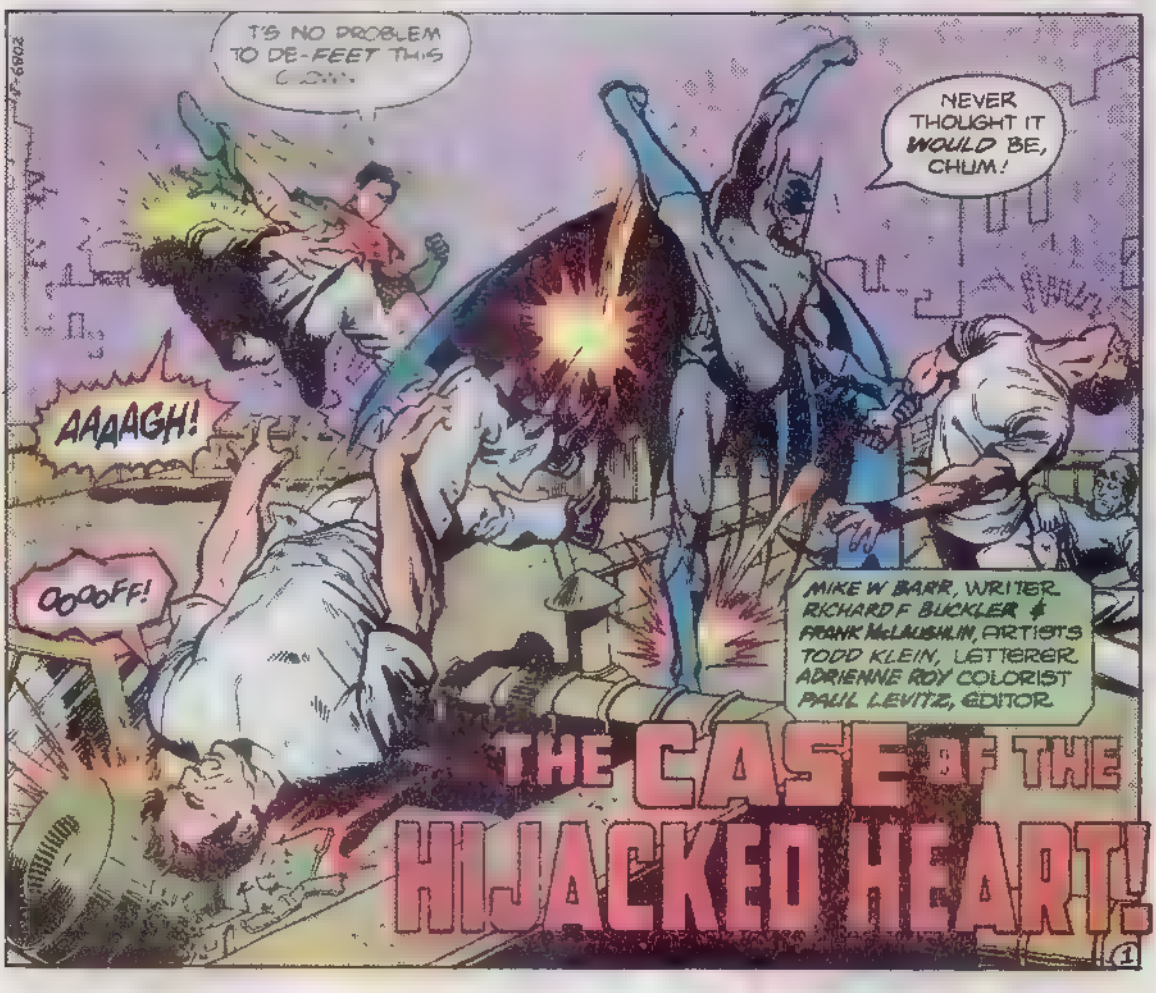


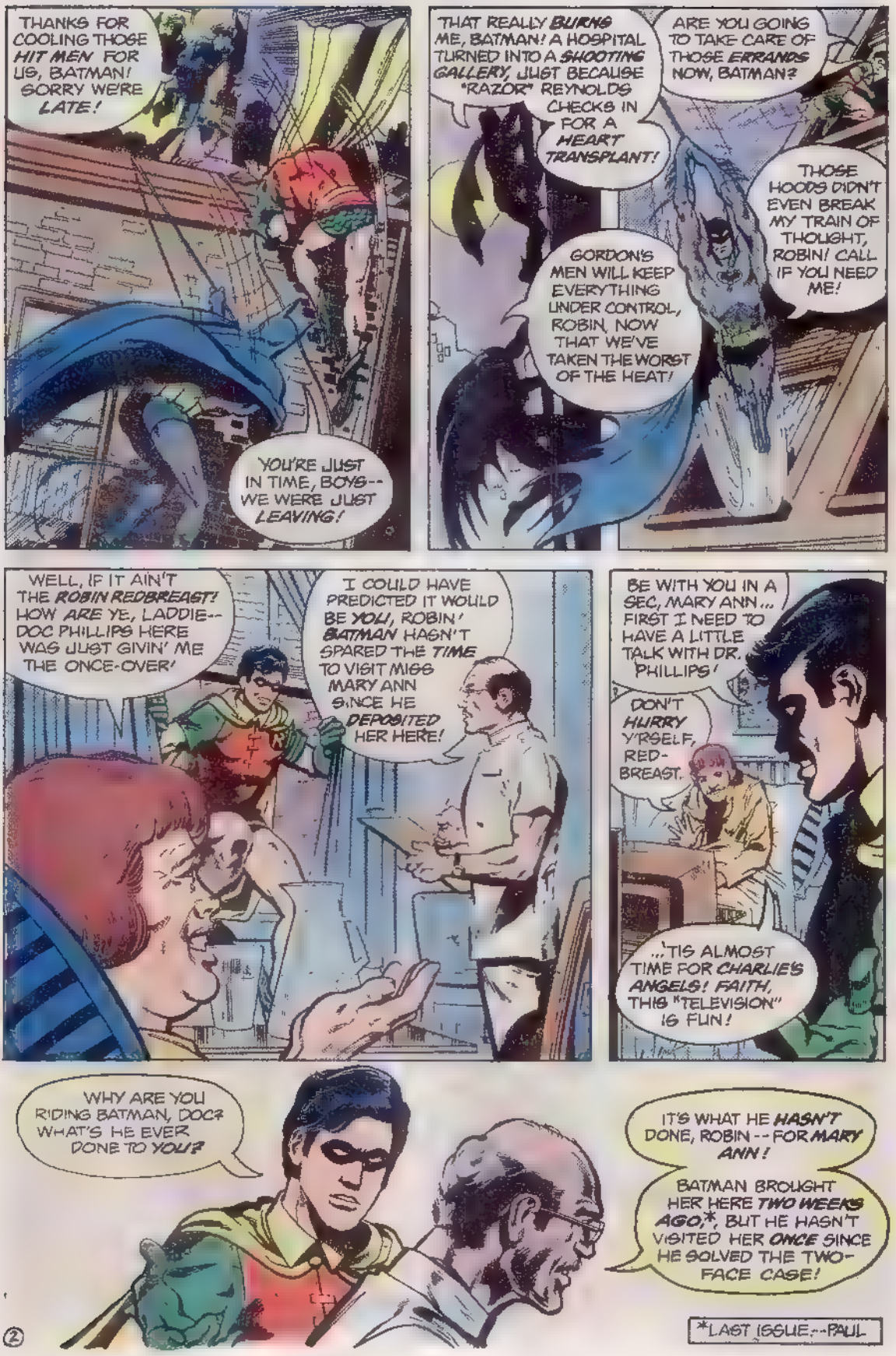
NEXT ISSUE: TARGETED FOR DEATH! A 25-PAGE SPECTACULAR!

BATMAN AND ROBIN THE TEEN WONDER --TOGETHER AGAIN!


GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL: THERE'S A COLD SOUND TO THE WORDS, DISGUISING THE WARMTH OF THE COMPASSION AND HEALING WITHIN
POW!
SOK!

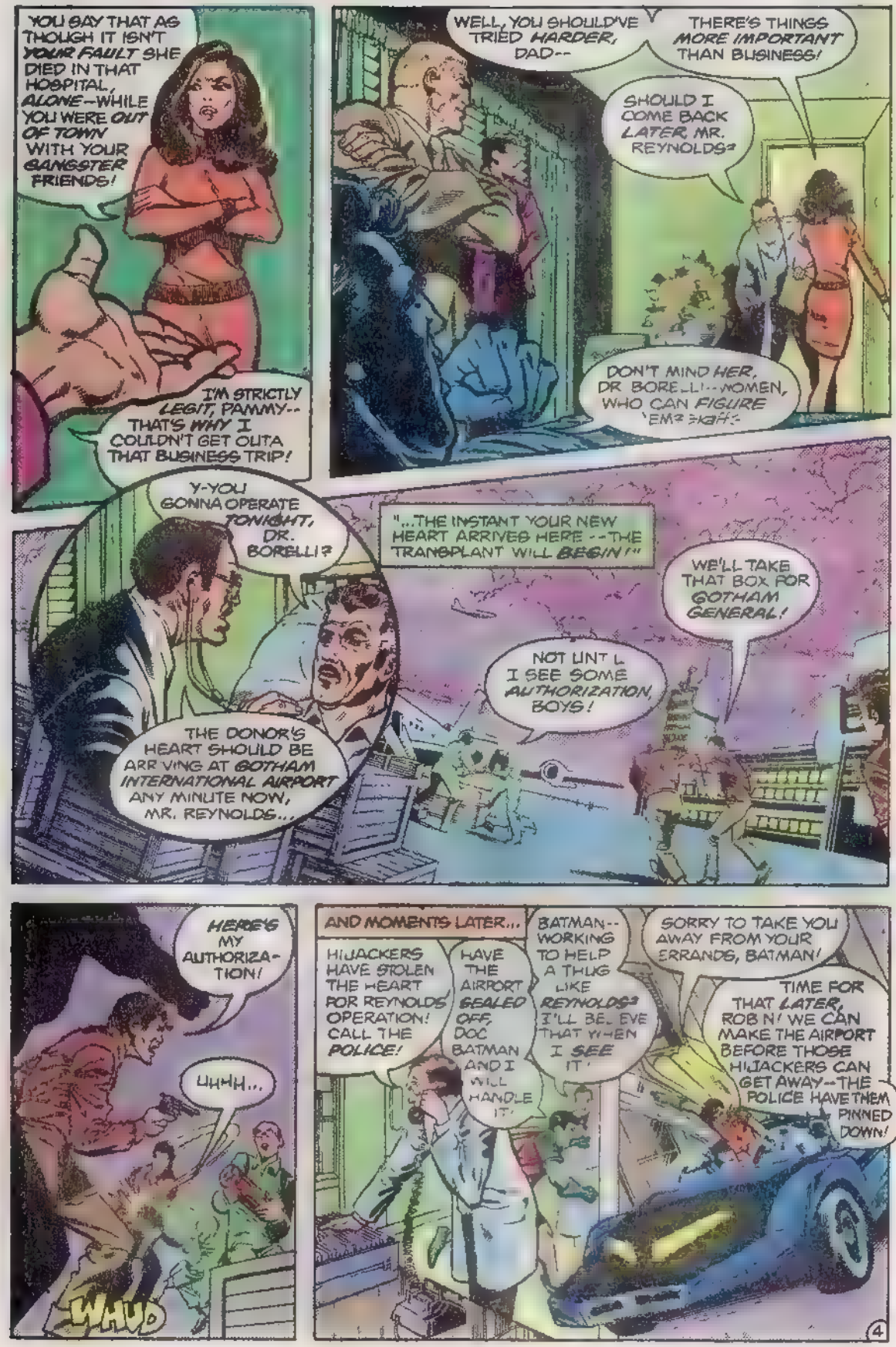
BUT THIS NIGHT, THE COLD OF JUSTICE HAS CREPT IN...
MAYBE YA DIDN'T BUY OUR DISGUISES BATMAN, BUT IT DON'T MATTER NOW! LEAVE OR ROBIN GUYS IT!
DON'T [illegible] LISTEN TO HIM, BATMAN...




THANKS FOR COOLING THOSE HIT MEN FOR US, BATMAN! SORRY WE'RE LATE!
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, BOYS-- WE WERE JUST LEAVING!
THAT REALLY BURNS ME, BATMAN! A HOSPITAL TURNED INTO A SHOOTING GALLERY, JUST BECAUSE "RAZOR" REYNOLDS CHECKS IN FOR A HEART TRANSPLANT!
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE ERRANDS NOW, BATMAN?
THOSE HOODS DIDN'T EVEN BREAK MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT, ROBIN! CALL IF YOU NEED ME!
GORDON'S MEN WILL KEEP EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL, ROBIN, NOW THAT WE'VE TAKEN THE WORST OF THE HEAT!
WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE ROBIN REDBREAST! HOW ARE YE, LADDIE-- DOC PHILLIPS HERE WAS JUST GIVIN' ME THE ONCE-OVER!
I COULD HAVE PREDICTED IT WOULD BE YOU, ROBIN! BATMAN HASN'T SPARED THE TIME TO VISIT MISS MARY ANN SINCE HE DEPOSITED HER HERE!
BE WITH YOU IN A SEC, MARY ANN... FIRST I NEED TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH DR. PHILLIPS!
DON'T HURRY Y'RSELF, RED-BREAST.
...'TIS ALMOST TIME FOR CHARLIE'S ANGELS! FAITH, THIS "TELEVISION" IS FUN!
WHY ARE YOU RIDING BATMAN, DOC? WHAT'S HE EVER DONE TO YOU?
IT'S WHAT HE HASN'T DONE, ROBIN -- FOR MARY ANN!
BATMAN BROUGHT HER HERE TWO WEEKS AGO,*, BUT HE HASN'T VISITED HER ONCE SINCE HE SOLVED THE TWO-FACE CASE!

*LAST ISSUE--PAUL

EVEN A THUG LIKE "RAZOR" REYNOLDS HAS VISITORS -- BUT BATMAN'S TOO BUSY BEATING PEOPLE UP TO CARE ABOUT HUMAN EMOTIONAL NEEDS!
BATMAN'S GOT HIS OWN WAYS, DOC -- MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU'LL REALIZE THEY WORK, TOO!
METAL DETECTOR SAYS YOU'RE CLEAN, CARDONA --GO AHEAD!
THANKS FOR NOT CREASING MY DUDS, FLUNKY -- HERE, BUY YOURSELF THE GOTHAM BRIDGE!
BEEP BEEP
HEY, RAZOR, HOWZABOY, HUH? NOT EVERY DAY A GUY GETS A NEW HEART!
YOU DON'T GIVE A SCREAM ABOUT ME, CARDONA! >kaff< YOU COULDA BEEN BEHIND THAT HIT ON ME TONIGHT!
YOU'RE TOO HUNGRY, "DUDS"... I MADE YOU MY BEST BOY -- BE HAPPY WITH THAT!
ANOTHER VISITOR, MR. REYNOLDS, SAYS HER NAME'S PAMELA --DO YOU KNOW HER?
'COURSE I DO, STUPID. >kaff< THAT'S MY DAUGHTER!
IT'S CRAZY, DAD -- I ONLY WANTED TO WISH YOU GOOD LUCK ON YOUR OPERATION, BUT CARDONA COULD GET IN EASIER THAN I COULD!
YOU'RE EPSY, HONEY... CALM DOWN! YOUR MOTHER NEVER LIKED HOSPITALS EITHER, GOD REST HER SOUL!
3

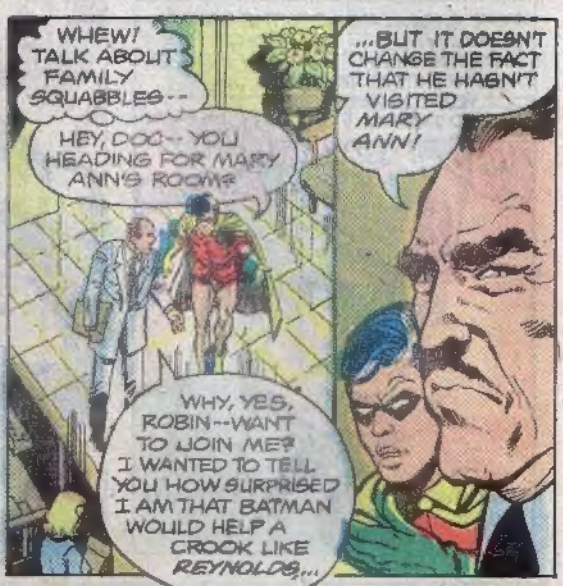

YOU SAY THAT AS THOUGH IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT SHE DIED IN THAT HOSPITAL, ALONE—WHILE YOU WERE OUT OF TOWN WITH YOUR GANGSTER FRIENDS!
I'M STRICTLY LEGIT, PAMMY--THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T GET OUTA THAT BUSINESS TRIP!
WELL, YOU SHOULD'VE TRIED HARDER, DAD--
THERE'S THINGS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BUSINESS!
SHOULD I COME BACK LATER, MR. REYNOLDS?
DON'T MIND HER, DR. BORELLI--WOMEN, WHO CAN FIGURE 'EM?
Y-YOU GONNA OPERATE TONIGHT, DR. BORELLI?
"...THE INSTANT YOUR NEW HEART ARRIVES HERE--THE TRANSPLANT WILL BEGIN!"
WE'LL TAKE THAT BOX FOR GOTHAM GENERAL!
NOT UNTIL I SEE SOME AUTHORIZATION, BOYS!
THE DONOR'S HEART SHOULD BE ARRIVING AT GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ANY MINUTE NOW, MR. REYNOLDS...
HERE'S MY AUTHORIZATION!
UHHH...
WHUD
AND MOMENTS LATER...
HIJACKERS HAVE STOLEN THE HEART FOR REYNOLDS' OPERATION! CALL THE POLICE!
HAVE THE AIRPORT SEALED OFF, DOC BATMAN AND I WILL HANDLE IT!
BATMAN--WORKING TO HELP A THUG LIKE REYNOLDS? I'LL BELIEVE THAT WHEN I SEE IT!
SORRY TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR ERRANDS, BATMAN!
TIME FOR THAT LATER, ROBIN! WE CAN MAKE THE AIRPORT BEFORE THOSE HIJACKERS CAN GET AWAY--THE POLICE HAVE THEM PINNED DOWN!

BATMAN AND ROBIN!
AS USUAL, THEY STUCK TOGETHER, INSTEAD OF SPLITTING UP--THEY CAN'T FIRE AT US WITHOUT HITTING THEMSELVES!
THUD!
WOP!
THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH, BATMAN! YOU AND THE KID GROW ROOTS...
...OR THIS FLYBOY GROWS WINGS -- LIKE AN ANGEL!
HE'S CONCENTRATING ON BATMAN... NOT EVEN LOOKING AT ME...!
WHACK!
CALL ME A "KID", WILL YOU?
YEOWW!
LET'S GET 'EM BEFORE THEY REACH THE TERMINAL, BATMAN!
WREEEEEEE
NO, ROBIN! WATCH OUT--
--THAT JETLINER!
GASP! I'M BEING SUCKED IN --
5

NOT WHILE I'M HERE, PAL! NOW HOLD ON, ROBIN!
HOLD...
..ON!
THERE THEY GO, ROBIN! WITH NO HOSTAGES TO HIDE BEHIND, THEY WON'T BE A PROBLEM!
EXIT
THEY'VE REACHED THE TERMINAL, ROBIN --WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US!
YOU #Pants# SAVED MY LIFE, BATMAN ...AND THAT'S THE PLANE TRUTH!
THERE'S ONLY THREE OF 'EM, BATMAN--YOU WANT TO DRAW STRAWS FOR THEM?
THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE DOES NOT ANSWER IN WORDS, THOUGH HIS RESPONSE IS PURE ELOQUENCE...
THESE LUGS ARE REAL LOSERS, BATMAN --THEY DON'T EVEN RATE A ONE ON MY LIE-GAUGE!
THIS TIME, BATMAN MAKES NO RESPONSE, SAVE A SLIGHT SHAKING OF HIS HEAD, AND A NIGH-INAUDIBLE SIGH...
NOT RUNNING, PUNK? DECIDE TO GIVE UP?
NO WAY, BATMAN-- I KNOW THE AIRPORTS SURROUNDED...
...EITHER YOU LET ME ME GO, OR THIS HEART DIES --AND "RAZOR" REYNOLDS WON'T BE FAR BEHIND!
HE WON'T LIVE A WEEK WITHOUT THE TRANSPLANT, BATMAN... WHAT DO YOU SAY?
LUB-DUB LUB-DUB LUB

FOR A FULL MINUTE, THE BATMAN IS SILENT... THE BEATING OF THE HIDEOUS HEART THE ONLY SOUND HEARD IN THE TERMINAL...
...AND THEN...
LUB-DUB-LUB-DUB
LUB-DU
I'VE MADE MY DECISION, PLINK...
...AND THE ANSWER IS NO!
THWUMP!
OOOOF!
THE HEART PLUMMETS DOWNWARD, TOWARDS THAT WHICH WOULD STILL ITS BEAT FOREVER...
...BUT AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT...
GOOD CATCH, ROBIN!
I SHOULD BE IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES, BATMAN! I'VE GOT THE HANDS, AND THE HEART!
AND IN A MOMENT, WE'LL HAVE THE NAME OF THIS THUG'S EMPLOYER--WON'T WE?
I'LL TELL... I'LL TELL!
MINUTES LATER...
I KNEW YOU'D MAKE IT, ROBIN-- WE'VE BEEN HOLDING THE OPERATING ROOM READY!
TAKE IT AWAY, DOC!
AND THERE'S A POLICE CAR READY TO TAKE YOU AWAY...
... MISS REYNOLDS!
YOU'RE NUTS, KID! MY PAMMY COULDN'T BE BEHIND THIS --HUH?
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
YOU GAVE MOMMA EVERYTHING SHE EVER WANTED, DAD -- EXCEPT YOUR LOVE ...YOUR HEART! SHE DIED CALLING YOUR NAME!

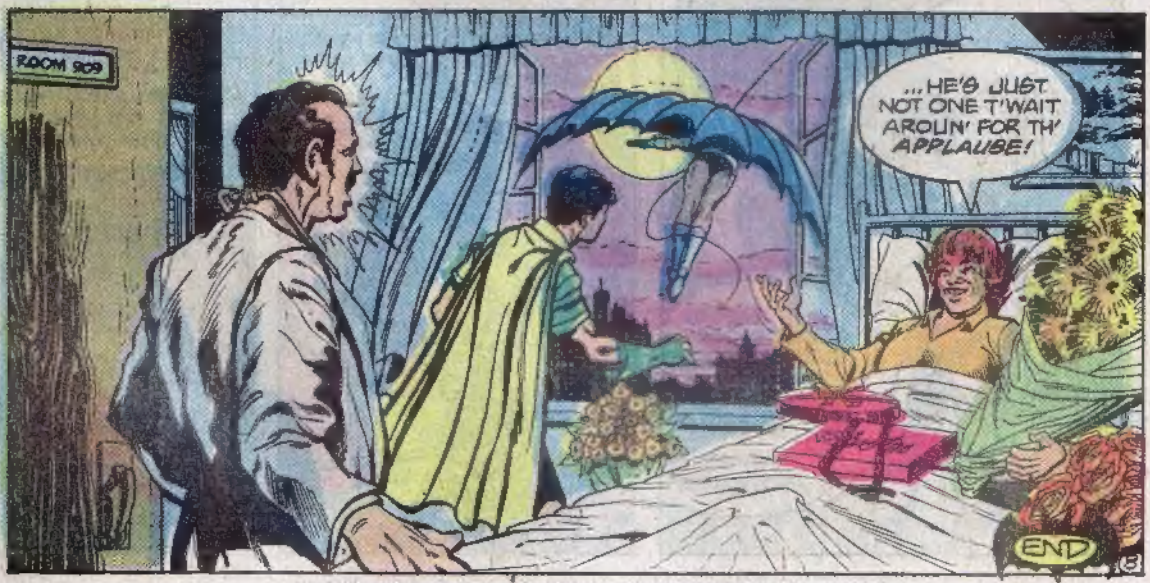
I TRIED TO KILL YOU BY TAKING YOUR NEW HEART! I'M SORRY I FAILED--BUT THAT'S ALL I'M SORRY FOR!
DO A GOOD JOB PUTTIN' THE NEW HEART IN, DR. BORELL! ... THE ORIGINAL IS ABOUT TO BREAK!

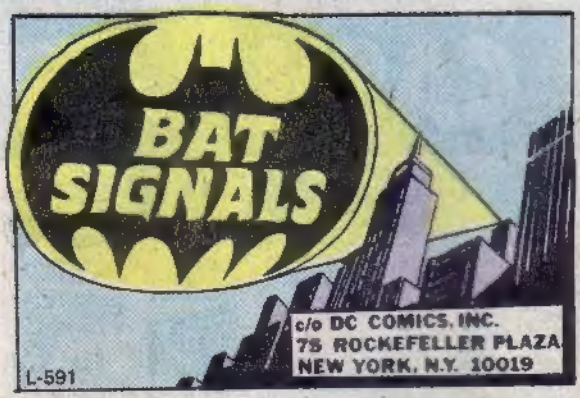

WHEW! TALK ABOUT FAMILY SQUABBLES--
HEY, DOC--YOU HEADING FOR MARY ANN'S ROOM?
...BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT HE HASN'T VISITED MARY ANN!
WHY, YES, ROBIN--WANT TO JOIN ME? I WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW SURPRISED I AM THAT BATMAN WOULD HELP A CROOK LIKE REYNOLDS...

CHECK WITH THE NURSES, DOC! MAYBE BATMAN LEFT A CARD OR SOMETHING!
SORRY, DOCTOR, NO CALLS, NO PACKAGES, NO VISITORS FOR MARY ANN!
YOU SEE? BATMAN DOESN'T CARE! HE'S AN UNFEEL--

DOCTOR PHILLIPS!
THE EMERGENCY SIGNAL--IT'S MARY ANN'S ROOM!
OH, NO!

HER PROGRESS WAS EXCELLENT... IF SHE'S HAD A RELAPSE...
I TOLD YE, LADDIE... TH' BATMAN DOES CARE...


ROOM 909
...HE'S JUST NOT ONE T'WAIT AROUN' FOR TH' APPLAUSE!
END



Dear Friends:

Not bad at all—*Batman* #324, "The Cat Who Would Be King," that is. You used a bad villain, Cat-Man, in about the best way he COULD be used—as half-serious competition for Catwoman—and killed him off at the end. (For once, let a Bat-villain die. Cat-Man always was a piker—I won't miss him a bit.) Batman and Catwoman made a good team, for once fighting on the same side, and Mr. Akropolis made an interesting villainous character to spice things up. A nice finish to the whole "return of Catwoman" series—except—the ending itself, when Selina was "cured" by Cat-Man's "magic" cape. Ah, C'MON, people. Talk about your anti-climaxes...Batman's stories always take place relatively close to real-life, and such an incongruous element—even though you did not specifically say the cloak DID cure Selina—just hits the wrong note. Also, after all the struggling Selina did—if you do NOT accept the supernatural explanation—then it was all for nothing? No, the ending did not quite measure up to what went before...

Hey, you mean Selina's going to stay on in Gotham? Keep on being Bruce Wayne's girlfriend? You mean he's actually going to have a regular lover, over a long period of time? Wow. Best of luck, people—I wish Selina all the luck in the world—but the track record shows that Bruce isn't big on long-term relationships. Ask Kathy Kane (or her ghost), Vicki Vale, Julie Madison, Talia, and the rest. (Although Catwoman comes closest, I must admit, to being Bruce and Batman's most constant romantic attachment.)

Al Schroeder III
3608 Richland Avenue
Nashville, Tenn. 37205

Constant, perhaps not, but since Selina's debut in BATMAN #1, we do think she qualifies as his longest-standing relationship. And make no mistake, she will be returning to these pages...although another of Batman's beautiful playmates will be featured next issue!—PL.

* * * * *

Folks,

It's great to be back!

Y'see, the last time I picked up a copy of *Batman* was somewhere late in 1972. But not much has seemed to change (or maybe things are changing *back*). For instance, I noticed Irv Novick listed as artist. It seems like I remember him listed as such back then too, right? He and Jim Aparo are *the* artists for *Batman* in my book.

And although I can't remember him on this book before, it was a pleasant surprise to see Len Wein (as well as his wife, Glynis) as the writer. It makes me wish that you guys would bring *Swamp Thing* back as a regular series again. What do you think?

I wonder how I would have reacted in 1971 or 1972 to learn that Batman would fall in love with Catwoman? I probably would have considered it a vague sort of blasphemy. But now I think it's a very *human* thing to have happen to a comic book character. I like the idea. I congratulate whoever came up with it. It's immediately obvious that something's wrong with Selina by page three, where she says "I can't go to jail—not now! I'll never live long enough to stand trial!" It's going to be interesting to see *why* she would "never live long enough" and even more so to see Batman's reaction if she actually does die!

I've got to admit when I ordered the subscription, I never expected anything quite this detailed. So you might have me around a lot longer this time.

Keep it up!

Alan Sissom
Route 1, Box 389
Bradyville, TN 37026

We'll try, Alan. But meanwhile, in case you want to brush up on what you missed, our next correspondent has a list that's just perfect for you!—PL.

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Having perused every BATMAN of the 1970's (#218-318) I decided to declare the awards for best story for all ten years (January-December).

1970: "Hot Time in Gotham Town Tonight" by Michael Friedrich
1971: "Night of the Reaper" by Dennis O'Neil
1972: "The Demon Lives Again" and/or "Silent Night, Deadly Night" both by Dennis O'Neil
1973: "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge" by Dennis O'Neil
1974: "Moon of the Wolf" by Leonard Wein
1975: "The Daily Death of Terry Tremaine" by David V. Reed
1976: "Stop Me Before I Kill" by David V. Reed
1977: "The Joker's Playground of Peril" by Dennis O'Neil
1978: "The Adventure of the Houdini Whodunit" by Gerry Conway
1979: "Dark Messenger of Mercy" by Leonard Wein

Mark Young
2420 W. Raye
Seattle, WA 98199

Off-hand it sounds reasonable to us, Mark, though we might differ in a couple of places. Any other readers want to take issue?—PL.

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

"The Cat who would be King" was an excellent story. From beginning to end, this comic was a great reading experience. The cat's cradle death trap was the best trap that Batman has been in in a very long time. This really gave the Darknight Detective a chance to earn his title as the world's greatest escape artist. Having to save himself as well as the Catwoman was reminiscent of the many times Batman had to save both himself and Robin from many a good death trap. Selina Kyle is one great lady, and I am glad that she is not going to die. The way she handled herself in that Greek bar was magnificent, and I really believe that she is a perfect mate for the Batman. And therein lies the problem, after having spent two issues with the Batman and his saving her life and all; it looks as if Selina's affection might be switching from Bruce to Batman. I just hope that the old dual identity love crisis does not come into too much play here.

Novick and Smith handled the art with a skill that is amazing. Their work on this book makes it one of DC's best. This package embellished with a startling Jim Aparo cover made the total issue very memorable.

Kent A. Phenis
1082 Sherwood Court #603
Greenwood, IN 46142

* * * * *

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* * * * *

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